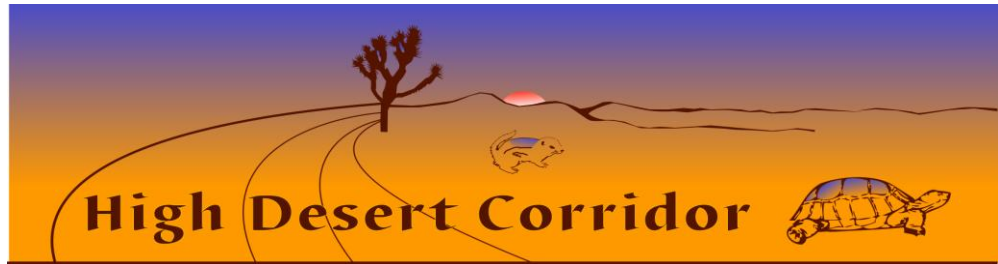


# SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

## Executive Summary



### **New State Route 138/E-220**

Palmdale to Apple Valley (SR-14 to SR-18)

California Department of Transportation  
Division of Environmental Planning (MS-16A)  
100 S. Main St., Ste. 100  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SCH No.: 2010091084  
Caltrans Project No.: 0000000080 (EA: 16720)



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

The High Desert Corridor (HDC) project is being undertaken by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in coordination with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and other partner agencies. The HDC project involves the construction of a new approximately 63-mile long east-west freeway/expressway, and possible toll or rail facility, between State Route (SR) 14 in Los Angeles County and SR-18 in San Bernardino County. The HDC was identified as the E-220 in the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act; A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and is officially designated as a High Priority Corridor on the National Highway System. The project is proposed as a means of improving mobility and access for people and goods in the rapidly growing Antelope, Victor, and Apple Valley areas of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

To comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental impact report/statement (EIR/EIS) is being prepared. CEQA and NEPA both encourage public participation throughout the development of an EIR/EIS. Scoping is a means of soliciting input, early in the development process, concerning the project purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be analyzed, and the scope of the analysis to be included in the environmental document.

This Scoping Summary Report (SSR) has been prepared to document the scoping activities conducted to solicit input from the public and government agencies, to identify public and agency concerns and to define the environmental issues and alternatives to be examined in the EIR/EIS. This report covers outreach conducted during the formal scoping period of September 24, 2010 through November 1, 2010. Public and agency outreach efforts will continue throughout the project development process.

## Scoping Activities

Extensive efforts have been made to encourage public and agency participation in the scoping process. These efforts are described in Section 2 of this SSR and included:

- Publishing a Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation (NOI/NOP)
- Establishing a web presence for convenient public access
- Mailing over 25,000 postcards to residents and property owners
- Mailing letters to appropriate local, state and federal agencies and elected officials
- Posting scoping notices at public libraries
- Publishing scoping notices in local newspapers
- Providing a HDC presentation at the Inland Empire WTS luncheon
- Holding one (1) formal agency scoping meeting
- Holding four (4) formal public scoping meetings

It should be noted that over 600 people attended these last 3 listed presentations on the HDC.

Public and agency outreach activities, including those anticipated to take place in the near future, are shown in Figure ES-1 below.

**Figure ES-1. Project Outreach Activities (Sept. 2010 through March 2011).**

September	October	November	December	January	February	March
● Project Logo						»
● Project Website						»
Formal Scoping Period		(Sept. 24 through Nov. 1)				
		Post Scoping Period		(Nov. 1through Dec. 31)		
● Notice of Intent (Sept. 24)						
● Notice of Preparation (Sept. 28)						
● Formal Scoping Meetings (Sept. 27-30)						
				6002 Agency Meetings		(proposed - mid-Feb.)
				Community Meetings - proposed)		»

## Comments

Comments were received from 214 different agencies, community groups, members of the public, elected officials, and other interested parties via letters, emails, comment cards, and individuals' oral testimony. These comments are summarized in Section 3 of the SSR; all written comments are also included in their entirety in Appendix A.

Written comments from the public covered a wide range of issues. Primary areas of concern included the project purpose and need, the alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, potential impacts to community, cultural and biological resources, and mitigation measures. Public spoken comments focused primarily on needing more information about the project alternatives, design features, funding, community concerns, and right-of-way acquisition.

Agency comments often focused on the jurisdictional responsibilities of the particular agency and included issues such as purpose and need for the project, design features, traffic impacts, permits and the environmental document. All the agencies involved are requesting that future project information as it becomes available be promptly provided.

Overall, the scoping process has provided a wide array of comments from the public and agencies potentially affected by the project. These comments will help guide the development of the project and preparation of the environmental document. Caltrans' goal is to ensure that all relevant CEQA/NEPA resource issues are fully analyzed and documented in the EIR/EIS.

Caltrans and its partner agencies will continue with their outreach efforts in an attempt to fully engage the public and agencies in the development of this project.

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